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EXAMINER

PARK, JOHN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,943

Applicant(s)

GRAVELLE, KELLY

Examiner

John J. Park

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-17, 20, 23-35, 38, and 40-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imazuka (U.S. patent No. 6,712,267) in view of Slavin et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,819,234).

Re claim 1, Imazuka disclose a gate system comprising a control center for ticket reservation, an automatic gate apparatus, a ticket vending machine (See Col. 2 Line 8-11) for issuing a magnetic ticket, and a ticket issuing terminal through a wireless communication. The ticket vending machine includes an insert port (See Col. 4 Line 62-67) for a fare collected by a user, an exit port (See Col. 5 Line 16-29) for an issuing wireless IC card or magnetic ticket to a user, and a CPU (Fig. 4) to control the vending machine.

However, Imazuka fails to teach an electronic toll collection device for paying toll at a toll facility.

Slavin et al. disclose an automatic toll collection system (See Col. 2 Line 57-67) operating in conjunction with transponders provided for sale to the public and pre-approved for a predetermined amount of toll credit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the automatic toll collection system with transponders as taught by Slavin et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in order to purchase a transponder from a vending machine and process payment at any toll plaza that would be convenient toll fee transaction.

Re claim 2, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, further comprising a communication link for providing communication between the processing device and a remote computer, and wherein the processing device provides the stored value by transmitting the stored value to the remote computer (See Fig. 5; Col. 4 Line 20-38 in Imazuka).

Re claim 3, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 2 stated above, wherein the connection between the processing device and the remote computer comprises an Internet connection (See Fig 2; Col. 4 Line 9-24 in Imazuka).

Re claim 4, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, further comprising a display, in electronic communication with the processing device, for guiding a user in purchasing the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 9-18 in Imazuka).

Re claim 7, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the payment acceptance device comprises a cash acceptor for accepting the payment in cash (See Col. 4 Line 62-67 in Imazuka).

Re claim 10, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, further comprising an input device for receiving a number of an existing electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 1-18 in Imazuka), wherein the processing device increases the stored value for the existing electronic toll collection device in accordance with the payment accepted by the payment acceptance device (See Col. 4 Line 52-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 11, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 10 stated above, wherein the input device comprises a user input device for manual input of the number (See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka).

Re claim 12, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 10 stated above, wherein the input device comprises a reader for automatically reading the number from the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 12-17 in Imazuka).

Re claim 13, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, further comprising a bar code reader, in electronic communication with the processing device, for reading a bar code from a document and for transmitting information in the bar code to the

Art Unit: 2876

processing device, wherein the processing device associates the information in the bar code with payment accepted by the payment acceptance device (See Col. 4 Line 9-18 in Imazuka).

Re claim 14, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the dispenser comprises a dispenser for issuing motor vehicle tax or license decals (See Col. 4 Line 62-67 in Imazuka).

Re claim 15, Imazuka disclose a gate system comprising a control center for ticket reservation, an automatic gate apparatus, a ticket vending machine (See Col. 2 Line 8-11) for issuing a magnetic ticket, and a ticket issuing terminal through a wireless communication. The ticket vending machine includes an insert port (See Col. 4 Line 62-67) for a fare collected by a user, an exit port (See Col. 5 Line 16-29) for an issuing wireless IC card or magnetic ticket to a user, and a CPU (Fig. 4) to control the vending machine. A station control center of a central reservation center (See Fig. 5) is connected with a center communication controller that controls wireless communication (See Fig. 5; Col. 4 Line 29-38) with a ticket vending terminal for updating data of a wireless card.

However, Imazuka fails to teach an electronic toll collection device for paying toll at a toll facility.

Slavin et al. disclose an automatic toll collection system (See Col. 2 Line 57-67) operating in conjunction with transponders provided for sale to the public and pre-approved for a predetermined amount of toll credit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the automatic toll collection system with transponders as

Art Unit: 2876

taught by Slavin et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in order to purchase a transponder from a vending machine and process payment at any toll plaza that would be convenient toll fee transaction.

Re claim 16, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 15 stated above, wherein the communication link comprises an Internet connection (See Fig. 2; Col. 4 Line 9-24 in Imazuka).

Re claim 17, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 15 stated above, wherein the vending unit further comprises a display, in electronic communication with the processing device, for guiding a user in purchasing the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 9-18 in Imazuka).

Re claim 20, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 15 stated above, wherein the payment acceptance device comprises a cash acceptor for accepting the payment in cash (See Col. 4 Line 62-67 in Imazuka).

Re claim 23, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 15 stated above, wherein the vending unit further comprises an input device for receiving a number of an existing electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 1-18 in Imazuka), wherein the processing device increases the stored value for the existing electronic toll collection device in accordance with the payment accepted by the payment acceptance device (See Col. 4 Line 52-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 24, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 23 stated above, wherein the input device comprises a user input device for manual input of the number See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka).

Re claim 25, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 23 stated above, wherein the input device comprises a reader for automatically reading the number from the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 12-17 in Imazuka).

Re claim 26, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 15 stated above, wherein the processing device transmits the stored value to the accounting computer, and wherein the accounting computer stores the stored value (See Col. 4 Line 20-57).

Re claim 27, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 26 stated above, wherein the vending unit further comprises an input device for receiving a number of an existing electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 1-18 in Imazuka), wherein the processing device transmits an instruction to the accounting computer to increase the stored value for the existing electronic toll collection device in accordance with the payment accepted by the payment acceptance device (See Col. 4 Line 52-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 28, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 27 stated above, wherein the accounting computer is in communication with a violation processing center and controls the

Art Unit: 2876

violation processing center not to process a toll violation if the stored value is increased within a predetermined time period after the violation (See Col. 5 Line 45-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 29, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 28 stated above, wherein the vending unit further comprises a bar code reader, in electronic communication with the processing device, for reading a bar code from a document and for transmitting information in the bar code to the processing device, wherein the processing device transmits the information in the bar code to the accounting computer for association with the payment accepted by the payment acceptance device (See Col. 4 Line 9-18 in Imazuka).

Re claim 30, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 26 stated above, wherein the accounting computer is in communication with a toll facility at which the electronic toll collection device is usable for paying a toll, and wherein, when the electronic toll collection device is used at the toll facility, the accounting computer deducts the toll from the stored value (See Fig. 5 in Imazuka).

Re claim 31, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a system for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 26 stated above, wherein the accounting computer is in communication with a computer system operated for a public authority for collection of motor vehicle taxes or fees, and wherein the accounting computer communicates an amount of the payment accepted by the payment acceptance device to the computer system operated for the public authority (See Col. 4 Line 62-Col. 5 Line 15 in Imazuka).

Art Unit: 2876

Re claim 32, Imazuka disclose a gate system comprising a control center for ticket reservation, an automatic gate apparatus, a ticket vending machine (See Col. 2 Line 8-11) for issuing a magnetic ticket, and a ticket issuing terminal through a wireless communication. The ticket vending machine includes a ticket processing terminal at a long-distance ticket vending window (See Fig. 4; Col. 4 Line 1-8) to display various data (Fig. 7) with additional purchasing function, an insert port (See Col. 4 Line 62-67) for a fare collected by a user, an exit port (See Col. 5 Line 16-29) for an issuing wireless IC card or magnetic ticket to a user, and a CPU (Fig. 4) to control the vending machine.

However, Imazuka fails to teach an electronic toll collection device for paying toll at a toll facility.

Slavin et al. disclose an automatic toll collection system (See Col. 2 Line 57-67) operating in conjunction with transponders provided for sale to the public and pre-approved for a predetermined amount of toll credit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the automatic toll collection system with transponders as taught by Slavin et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in order to purchase a transponder from a vending machine and process payment at any toll plaza that would be convenient toll fee transaction.

Re claim 33, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 32 stated above, wherein step (c) comprises:

(i) maintaining account information at a remote location regarding the electronic toll

Art Unit: 2876

collection device (See Fig. 5 in Imazuka); and

(ii) transmitting the stored value to the remote location for storage at the remote location (See Fig. 5; Col. 4 Line 29-38 in Imazuka).

Re claim 34, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 33 stated above, wherein step (c)(ii) is performed over an Internet connection (See Fig. 2; Col. 4 Line 9-24 in Imazuka).

Re claim 35, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 32 stated above, wherein the user interface comprises a display, and wherein step (a) comprises guiding the user through the display in purchasing the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 9-18 in Imazuka).

Re claim 38, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 32 stated above, wherein step (b) comprises automatically accepting the payment in cash (See Col. 4 Line 62-67 in Imazuka).

Re claim 40, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 32 stated above, further comprising:

(e) receiving a number of an existing electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka);

(f) automatically receiving additional payment (See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka); and

Art Unit: 2876

(g) automatically increasing the stored value for the existing electronic toll collection device in accordance with the additional payment received in step (f) (See Col. 4 Line 52-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 41, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 40 stated above, wherein step (e) comprises receiving a manual input of the number (See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka).

Re claim 42, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 40 stated above, wherein step (e) comprises automatically reading the number from the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 12-17 in Imazuka).

Re claim 43, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 40 stated above, further comprising (h) controlling a violation processing center not to process a toll violation if the stored value is increased within a predetermined time period after the violation (See Col. 5 Line 45-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 44, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service vending of an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 32 stated above, further comprising automatically deducting a toll from the stored value when the electronic toll collection device is used at a toll facility to pay the toll (See Col. 2 Line 8-17 in Imazuka).

Re claim 45, Imazuka disclose a gate system comprising a control center for ticket reservation, an automatic gate apparatus, a ticket vending machine (See Col. 2 Line 8-11) for issuing a magnetic ticket with assigned issue No. or ID No. (See Col. 7 Line 14-20), and a ticket

Art Unit: 2876

issuing terminal through a wireless communication. The ticket vending machine includes a ticket processing terminal at a long-distance ticket vending window (See Fig. 4; Col. 4 Line 1-8) to display various data (Fig. 7) with additional purchasing function, an insert port (See Col. 4 Line 62-67) for a fare collected by a user, an exit port (See Col. 5 Line 16-29) for an issuing wireless IC card or magnetic ticket to a user, and a CPU (Fig. 4) to control the vending machine. For additional purchasing of tickets, there is a method to collect a fare by rewriting data (See Col. 4 Line 1-8) by a processing terminal.

However, Imazuka fails to teach an electronic toll collection device for paying toll at a toll facility.

Slavin et al. disclose an automatic toll collection system (See Col. 2 Line 57-67) operating in conjunction with transponders provided for sale to the public and pre-approved for a predetermined amount of toll credit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the automatic toll collection system with transponders as taught by Slavin et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in order to purchase a transponder from a vending machine and process payment at any toll plaza that would be convenient toll fee transaction.

Re claim 46, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service maintenance of an account for an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein step (b) comprises receiving a manual input of the number from the user through the user interface (See Col. 4 Line 1-8 in Imazuka).

Art Unit: 2876

Re claim 47, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service maintenance of an account for an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein step (b) comprises automatically reading the identifying number from the electronic toll collection device (See Col. 4 Line 12-17 in Imazuka).

Re claim 48, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service maintenance of an account for an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 45 stated above, further comprising controlling a violation processing center not to process a toll violation if the stored value is increased within a predetermined time period after the violation (See Col. 5 Line 45-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 49, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service maintenance of an account for an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 45 stated above, further comprising (e) controlling a violation processing center to apply the payment accepted in step (c) to a toll violation (See Col. 5 Line 45-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 50, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. discloses a method for self-service maintenance of an account for an electronic toll collection device as recited in the rejected claim 49 stated above, wherein step (e) comprises reading a bar code from a violation notice issued pursuant to the toll violation and communicating information in the bar code to the violation processing center (See Col. 5 Line 45-57 in Imazuka).

Re claim 51, Imazuka disclose a gate system comprising a control center for ticket reservation, an automatic gate apparatus, a ticket vending machine (See Col. 2 Line 8-11) for issuing a magnetic ticket with assigned issue No. or ID No. for confirmation of legal use (See Col. 7 Line 14-20), and a ticket issuing terminal through a wireless communication. The ticket

Art Unit: 2876

vending machine includes a ticket processing terminal at a long-distance ticket vending window (See Fig. 4; Col. 4 Line 1-8) to display various data (Fig. 7) with additional purchasing, confirmation, and rewriting function (See Col. 4 Line 1-8), an insert port (See Col. 4 Line 62-67) for a fare collected by a user, an exit port (See Col. 5 Line 16-29) for an issuing wireless IC card or magnetic ticket to a user, and a CPU (See Fig. 4) to control the vending machine. For additional purchasing of tickets, there is a method to collect a fare by rewriting data (See Col. 4 Line 1-8) by a processing terminal.

However, Imazuka fails to teach an electronic toll collection device for paying toll at a toll facility.

Slavin et al. disclose an automatic toll collection system (See Col. 2 Line 57-67) operating in conjunction with transponders provided for sale to the public and pre-approved for a predetermined amount of toll credit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the automatic toll collection system with transponders as taught by Slavin et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in order to purchase a transponder from a vending machine and process payment at any toll plaza that would be convenient toll fee transaction.

3. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, 36, 37, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imazuka (U.S. patent No. 6,712,267) in view of Slavin et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,819,234) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Newsome et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,595,416).

Art Unit: 2876

Re claim 5, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach that a display comprises a touch screen for both guiding the user and receiving commands from the user.

Newsome et al. disclose touch screen display that eliminates the need for selection buttons (See Col. 5 Line 44-50)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the touch screen display as a selection method as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a touch screen display to a vending machine that a user can choose option buttons without input amount manually for simple and easy-to-use transaction.

Re claim 6, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach a key pad for receiving commands from the user.

Newsome et al. disclose a PIN keypad with a twelve key unit in a standard handset configuration (See Col. 6 Line 30-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the PIN keypad with a twelve key unit as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a PIN keypad to a vending machine that a user could add personal identification number to the keypad connected to memory of control unit for a user to input ID number.

Re claims 8 and 9, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

Art Unit: 2876

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach that the payment acceptance device comprises a card reader for accepting the payment in electronic form through a card.

Newsome et al. disclose credit/debit payment reader for adding value and issuing transit fare cards (See Fig. 1; Fig. 2a).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a credit/debit payment reader for adding value of fare cards as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide the credit/debit reader to an automatic vending machine to improve the overall mean cycle of transaction for easy to use.

Re claim 18, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach that a display comprises a touch screen for both guiding the user and receiving commands from the user.

Newsome et al. disclose touch screen display that eliminates the need for selection buttons (See Col. 5 Line 44-50)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the touch screen display as a selection method as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a touch screen display to a vending machine that a user can choose option buttons without input amount manually for simple and easy-to-use transaction.

Re claim 19, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach a key pad for receiving commands from the user.

Newsome et al. disclose a PIN keypad with a twelve key unit in a standard handset configuration (See Col. 6 Line 30-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the PIN keypad with a twelve key unit as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a PIN keypad to a vending machine that a user could add personal identification number to the keypad connected to memory of control unit for a user to input ID number.

Re claims 21 and 22, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach that the payment acceptance device comprises a card reader for accepting the payment in electronic form through a card.

Newsome et al. disclose credit/debit payment reader for adding value and issuing transit fare cards (See Fig. 1; Fig. 2a).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a credit/debit payment reader for adding value of fare cards as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide the credit/debit reader to an automatic vending machine to improve the overall mean cycle of transaction for easy to use.

Re claim 36, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach that a display comprises a touch screen for both guiding the user and receiving commands from the user, and wherein the method further comprises receiving the commands from the user through the touch screen.

Newsome et al. disclose touch screen display that eliminates the need for selection buttons (See Col. 5 Line 44-50)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the touch screen display as a selection method as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a touch screen display to a vending machine that a user can choose option buttons without input amount manually for simple and easy-to-use transaction.

Re claim 37, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach a key pad for accepting commands from the user through the key pad.

Newsome et al. disclose a PIN keypad with a twelve key unit in a standard handset configuration (See Col. 6 Line 30-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the PIN keypad with a twelve key unit as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide a PIN keypad to a vending machine that a user could add personal identification number to the keypad connected to memory of control unit for a user to input ID number.

Re claim 39, the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. have been discussed above.

However, Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. fails to teach automatically accepting the payment in electronic form through a card.

Newsome et al. disclose credit/debit payment reader for adding value and issuing transit fare cards (See Fig. 1; Fig. 2a).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a credit/debit payment reader for adding value of fare cards as taught by Newsome et al. into the teachings of Imazuka in view of Slavin et al. in order to provide the credit/debit reader to an automatic vending machine to improve the overall mean cycle of transaction for easy to use.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cooke et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,758,370) disclose a dispensing mechanism of product vending providing for flat faced products.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Park whose telephone number is 571-272-2350. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am - 2:00pm (Monday - Friday).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Art Unit: 2876

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John J Park
Examiner
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